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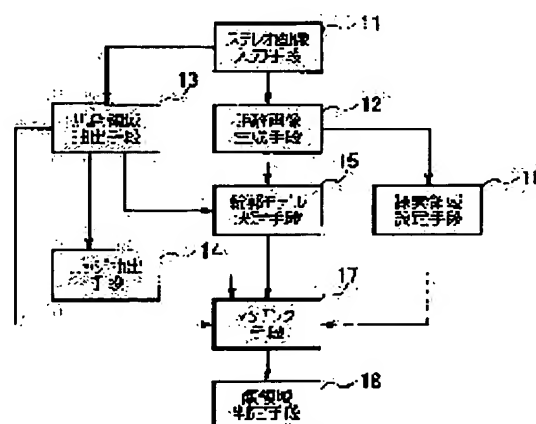
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## (54) FACE AREA DETECTOR, ITS METHOD AND COMPUTER READABLE RECORDING MEDIUM

## (57)Abstract:

**PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:** To provide a face area detector, its method and a computer readable recording medium capable of detecting a face area at high speed without requiring preliminary storage of huge number of templates such as in a template matching method.

**SOLUTION:** A color image is acquired by a stereo image input means 11 and a distance image having depth information is generated by a distance image generating means 12. Next, a flesh color area image is created from the color image by a flesh color area extracting means 13 and an edge image is created by an edge extracting means 14. Furthermore, a contour model of the face area is created based on the depth information regarding an area corresponding to the flesh color area by a contour model deciding means 15. Then correlation among the contour model, the flesh color area image and the edge image is calculated by a matching means 17 and the face area is detected based on a correlation result by a face area judging means 18. In addition, these processings are performed in a search area calculated by a search area setting means 16.



## LEGAL STATUS

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